

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Guyana
Program Title:	Democratic Governance Consolidated
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	504-006
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,980,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$2,000,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2004
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2008

Summary: USAID is the lead bilateral donor in Guyana in the democracy and governance sector. With the inclusion of a United States Government (USG) Millennium Challenge Account Threshold program, the Government of Guyana and the international donor community are looking to the United States for continued leadership on consolidating democratic institutions by promoting citizens' participation in policy making, fostering transparency and accountability in government, and reducing vulnerability to ethnic and political conflict. Promoting good governance is critical because of the need to overcome mistrust between supporters of the two main political parties that are divided largely along ethnic lines.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$190,000 DA). USAID is providing technical support to improve the curriculum of the University of Guyana Centre for Communication Studies. USAID is also providing technical support to the Guyana Press Association and other civil society organizations to become better advocates on key issues of national interest, particularly media responsibility and national elections. Principal contractor: Research Triangle Institute (RTI).

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace (\$450,000 DA). USAID is working with the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) in conflict prevention, conflict management, and peace building. USAID is training ERC commissioners as well as their alternates and technical staff in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods. This includes using appreciative inquiry methods to improve relationships between communities and their residents. USAID is also funding workshops in Guyana's ten administrative regions and provide grants and training to civil society organizations (CSO). The objective is to increase awareness of citizens, particularly youth to the divisive role of "hate" speeches, the general causes and perpetuation of conflict, and the functions of a professional press. Principal contractor: RTI.

Promote and Support Credible Elections Processes (\$780,000): USAID is the lead bilateral donor supporting free and fair elections in Guyana. USAID provides technical assistance to the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM), which is responsible for logistical support for the 2006 national election, including registration, voter education and candidate forums. USAID continues support for the institutional strengthening of GECOM, and will fund the preparation of training manuals for 23,000 polling-place personnel. Principal contractor is RTI.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$300,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance to eight CSOs, building their capacity to promote information and communication exchanges that will influence decision-making at both the national and local levels. USAID is continuing to strengthen the capacity of two justice-sector CSOs to provide counseling and support services to victims of

domestic violence and human trafficking. Principal contractor: RTI.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$260,000 DA). USAID strengthens the administration of justice in Guyana by providing technical assistance, including computer training, on how to improve case management, including case disposition through ADR. USAID is providing training to 15 judges of the High Court and Court of Appeals in case flow management, rules of procedure, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. USAID-funded training is being provided to 25 new mediators in arbitration and conciliation management. Principal contractor: RTI.

FY 2007 Program:

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom Of Information (\$150,000 DA). USAID plans to fund investigative and professional journalism training for Guyana media owners, editors, reporters, and journalism students. Curriculum assistance to the University of Guyana Center for Communication Studies will also continue. Principal contractor: RTI.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$850,000 DA): USAID plans to continue funding CSOs through sub-grants in order to build their capacity and ability to influence decision-making at both the national and local levels. USAID will continue to assist vulnerable groups through local CSOs in the provision of legal services. Building on Mitigating Conflict and Supporting Peace activities undertaken in FY 2006, USAID plans to provide new grants to CSOs and local government bodies, such as Amerindian Village Councils. These grants will enhance their capacity and knowledge of decentralization as well as launch local governance pilot initiatives in Guyana's ten administrative regions. Additionally, USAID will support CSOs to ensure that they participate in the process of local government reforms necessary for local government elections. Principal contractor: RTI.

Strengthen the Justice Sector (\$500,000 DA). USAID plans to further support the justice sector to eliminate case backlogs and improve case management through training of judges and use of appropriate computer technology. USAID will continue to work with the Guyanese judiciary to institute a court-mandated use of ADR. Principal contractor: RTI.

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$500,000 DA). USAID will work closely with the newly-elected National Assembly to provide assistance for increased transparency in its administrative and fiduciary functions. USAID plans to work with both the Executive and Legislative branches in preparing the legal reforms that need to be in place to facilitate local elections. Principal contractor: RTI.

Performance and Results: By strengthening GECOM's Information Technology Department, USAID has assisted the Government of Guyana in preparing for national elections in 2006. USAID also supported the training of staff at the Ethnic Relations Commission to better equip them with the skills to address issues of ethnic conflict that may surface during the election period. The mass media is re-engaging in issue-related, investigative reporting, which will increase public awareness about substantive political, economic and social issues.

By the end of the program expected results include a more informed and active citizenry that can present issues to decision makers; an efficient and equipped Guyana Elections Commission, capable of registering voters in a timely and accurate manner and conducting free and fair national and local elections; a more independent National Assembly that represents the needs of the Guyanese people with enhanced legislative drafting and analysis capabilities; and a better functioning judiciary that will have eliminated backlogged cases and will formally adopt Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to accelerate civil case disposition.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Guyana

504-006 Democratic Governance Consolidated	DA
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	1,848
Expenditures	84
Unliquidated	1,764
Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	2,086
Expenditures	2,004
Through September 30, 2005	
Obligations	3,934
Expenditures	2,088
Unliquidated	1,846
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	1,980
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006	
Obligations	1,980
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA	
Obligations	2,000
Future Obligations	3,775
Est. Total Cost	11,689